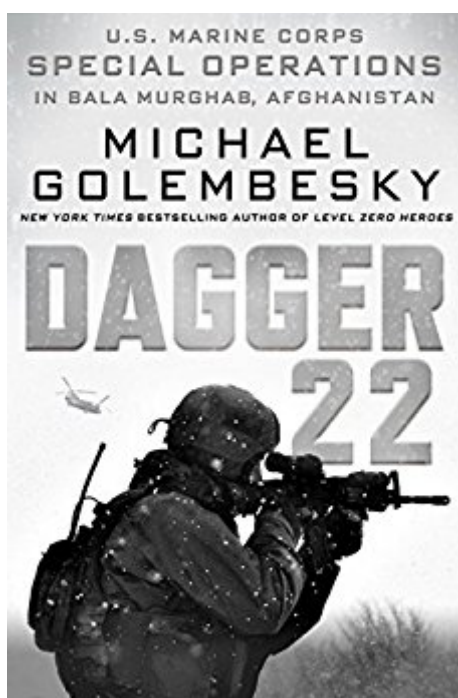


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Dagger 22: U.S. Marine Corps Special Operations In Bala Murghab, Afghanistan



Synopsis

The sequel to New York Times bestseller *Level Zero Heroes*, Michael Golembesky's bestselling account of Marine Special Operations Team 8222 in Bala Murghab, Afghanistan, was just the beginning for these now battle-hardened special operations warriors. The unforgiving Afghan winter has settled upon the 22 men of Marine Special Operations Team 8222, callsign Dagger 22, in the remote and hostile river valley of Bala Murghab, Afghanistan. The Taliban fighters in the region would have liked nothing more than to once again go dormant and rest until the new spring fighting season began. No chance of thatâthis winter would be different. Along with Afghan and International Security Forces (NATO), the Marines of Dagger 22 continued their fight throughout the harsh winter to shape the battlefield before the Afghan ground began to thaw. From one firefight to the next, the noose began to tighten around the village of Daneh Pasab and the Taliban command cell operating there. On April 6, 2010, a ground force consisting of U.S. Army Special Forces, Afghan Commandos and Marine Corps special operations conducted a night assault to destroy the heavily entrenched Taliban force, breaking their grip on the valley and stopping the spring offensive before it even began. But nothing in Bala Murghab comes easily as combat operations wear on the operators of Dagger 22 as they lean on each other once again in order to complete their mission in one of the most brutal environments on earth.

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Customer Reviews

I had previously read Sean Naylor's *Relentless Strike*, which examines U. S. Special Operations from the commanders' standpoint. In *Dagger 22*, Michael Golembesky describes how some of the decisions of the senior commanders detailed in *Relentless Strike* affect the actual operations of the soldiers in combat. As described by Mr. Golembesky, the on-the-ground effect of some of these decisions wasn't always good from the perspective of the soldiers fighting Taliban forces. I'm sure that the senior officers could offer justification for the rules of engagement which they imposed. Reading both books enhanced my understanding of the Afghan conflict. The author describes life in the forward lines of the Afghan war. They fought with Afghan allies, some of whom were reliable and some of whom were not. Securing approval to engage the Taliban required, to me, a surprising level of bureaucratic effort and expertise. Engaging the military bureaucracy to secure authorization to undertake missions illuminated a dimension of warfare in Afghanistan that the author found troubling. Once approved, the fighting cost the lives of valued members of the Marine Corps Special Forces. The loss of these lives significantly impacted those who lived. For those of us who only read the book and have not lived through the Afghan experience, which I suspect is most readers, the emotional effect of these losses should be shared at least in some small measure with the author and his fellow soldiers. One observation that he made about some Taliban who held out when they should have retreated intrigued me. They were confined in a prison with no walls; a prison of circumstances. Fear and ideology left them to die. I resolved not to let myself fall into such a prison. If you have an interest in the 21st century combat experience, I recommend the book. .

This book is a great story about all the hard work our warriors put in protecting the freedoms so many take for granted. The author has done an exceptional job bringing the reader into his world during his time in country. He shows the struggles experienced with command, the politics of war and the love these marines have for their brothers in arms. Great intense battles, somber moments as comrades are wounded or lost. I have enjoyed both books the author has written and truly appreciate him taking the time to share his story with us.

Not one of the best I've read but decent and honorable. He doesn't write as a hardnosed jar head, just a honest look at his experiences

The reality of fighting and dying in Afghanistan is told like no other. Hard to put down as the story of such courageous men giving it their all in a remote location of the Afghan countryside. Highly recommend this book to give insight into the difficult conflict and how we limit ourselves causing more casualties than necessary with asinine Rules of Engagement.

Great overview of the Charlie Foxtrot (cluster f***) the war in Afghanistan has become, and how the ROEs (rules of engagement) actually hamper us in the fight. Also shows the climate of utter corruption, which prevails in Afghanistan which makes it even more difficult--the Afghan National who is in your mission briefing this morning, repeats the plan to the Taliban or al-Qaeda tonight

Become part of the Marine Special Ops team! Excellent writing giving the reader a boots on the ground perspective. Great book about great men, you will enjoy the book and gain a level of understanding and frustration of the politics of war. Thank you to all that served and to their families and loved ones.

It brings back memory from my time in that hard land, with all of its beauty and sadness at the same time. Really well presented so that people outside the forces can get an idea about what went on there, even that it's only a glimpse. US Who were there have it in our lives forever for worse and good, it changed my life forever.....

I enjoyed Dagger 22 thoroughly and felt that it was a bit more personal than Michael's first work. This country owes a debt of gratitude to these fine warriors for what they have done and continue to do. It is a crying shame that our political leadership won't allow our outstanding war fighters to prosecute the war the way it should be in order to win, decisively.

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